



## Fact Sheet: High Rise Food Organics Pilot

City of Melbourne is committed to reducing the amount of organic material going to landfill to reduce landfill costs and improve our environmental impact. In the coming months we will introduce a food organics pilot to residents living in high-rise properties of six storeys and above, and we need your help.

### **About the pilot**

The aim of the pilot is to explore the effectiveness of diverting food organics from landfill by utilising onsite organics processing technology such as organic dehydration units.

Up to five high-rise buildings will be selected to participate in this pilot program for a period of twelve months commencing from June 2022.

### **Why we are doing this**

City of Melbourne acknowledges that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach will not work with the high-rise buildings in our municipality. That's why we are engaging with suppliers who have a variety of sizes and functions available in their dehydration technology. This will allow us to customise the pilot service to suit the requirements of the participating buildings. The average size of a dehydration unit is approximately 1300mm x 1100mm x 1460mm (L, D, H). However, the size of the unit will depend on the number of dwellings in your building and the amount of food organics produced in your building.

The output produced by the on-site technology will be transported to an organics processing facility where it will be turned into a high nutrient soil amendment product. City of Melbourne will be adopting a closed loop approach with the intention to buy back the soil amendment product to use in Melbourne parks and gardens

### **Key points about the pilot**

Council will be responsible for:

- Leasing the technology for twelve months.
- The ongoing management and maintenance of the technology for the duration of the pilot.
- Arranging the removal of organic matter from the premises.
- Communication and engagement with building residents.
- Provide equipment such as kitchen caddies, compostable liners and bins (if required).
- Educating residents and providing training to building staff in the use of the technology (if required).

### **Once the pilot program trial finishes**

City of Melbourne will arrange the following:

- An audit program to assess the landfill diversion rates over the term of the pilot.
- Arranging the removal of the technology at the end of the pilot period.
- Keeping the area housing the technology clean and tidy.

The building will be responsible for:

- The cost of utilities to operate the machine (approximately \$15 to \$20 per day).
- Building modification to house the technology, if required.  
E.g. Three-phase power, ventilation and/or sewerage or grey water connections.
- Future leasing costs of the unit if the building wishes to keep the technology.
- Costs to reverse building alterations (if any) that were made in order to house the technology.

### **Submit your interest in participating by 25 March**

If your building is interested in the food organics pilot program, please submit an Expression of Interest by 25 March 2022 here:

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/residents/waste-recycling/apartment-buildings/Pages/food-garden-organics-high-rise.aspx>.

While it is not a requirement to have Owners Corporation approval to submit an expression of interest, we strongly encourage you to discuss the prospect of your building participating in this pilot as soon as is practicable.

If your building is shortlisted to participate in the pilot program, you will receive further information about the selected technology, the service, associated costs and key dates. All buildings that have submitted an expression of interest will be notified of the outcome by 30 June 2022.